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# Regional Transportation Commission

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Chair Report  
September 21, 2006

# Chairman's Report

- Progress
  - Outreach meetings
  - Questions
- Timeline
- Resources

# Progress

- Outreach meetings
  - 4 sessions in 4 counties
  - 42 parties presented
  - Summary today

# Progress

## ■ Comments from Parties

- “Do No Harm”: Established relationships and partnerships producing results, do not interfere with new level of government
  - Local decision-making gives greater accountability and flexibility: Roads and Transit go hand in hand:
  - City and county road functions are inherently local (maintenance/operating, or local transit operations)
- Some regional cooperation already taking place at agency to agency level
- Transportation decisions should be tied to land use

# Progress

## ■ Comments from Parties

### □ Local issues:

- Streamlined permitting process would be helpful.
- Local jurisdictions sometimes end up paying for maintenance of non-local routes.
- Accountability to local jurisdictions important.

### □ King County Cities Panel says “yes” to ceding some authority.

- Auburn favors a four-county regional transportation system which would include “all municipal principal arterials,” as well as transit and ferries.

# Progress

## ■ Comments from Parties

- Transit providers believe their partnerships and operations currently work very well and do not want to cede authority
  - All transit agencies described cooperation on scheduling, fares and routes
- Transportation and construction project delivery is competing in a new global marketplace
  - Local market facing higher costs for raw materials, and increased competition for qualified staff.
  - Area does not produce graduates who have the necessary skills and assets to meet needs

# Progress - Outreach

## ■ Major Themes

- ❑ Present system delivers services but has significant deficiencies
  - Reluctance to change present system, particularly with 2007 vote looming
- ❑ More money is requested to every jurisdiction
  - New funding sources is significant issue
  - Lack of Funding: PSRC estimates Destination 2030 goals under funded by \$29.4 billion.
- ❑ Absence of body or mechanism to prioritize creates conflicts
  - Critical projects have been delayed due to prioritization disputes
- ❑ System credibility is hurt by present governance structure

# Progress

## ■ Questions

- ❑ Is there sufficient funding?
- ❑ Who is responsible for prioritizing projects today?
  - What role should PSRC play as Metropolitan Planning Organization?
  - What is relationship between legislature, WSDOT and regional authorities?
  - What role should WSDOT play in region?
  - Who should be responsible for prioritizing projects?
- ❑ Is there sufficient accountability in the system?
  - How do we strengthen accountability in the system?



# Progress

## ■ Questions

- ❑ What functions should be regional?
  - What functions should be local?
  - Planning, prioritizing, financing, construction, maintenance?
- ❑ What are viable financing sources?
  - Are there material risks to gas tax revenue?
  - New sources: tolling, hot lanes, private funding
- ❑ What are boundaries of the Puget Sound region?
  - What boundaries should region have?
  - Should Kitsap County be included?

# Timeline

## ■ June

- Appointment by Governor and Public Announcement

## ■ July

- Hired staff for administration, research and lawyer
- Initial organizational meeting and met Governor

## ■ August

- Outreach meetings with current agencies
- Researched literature on transportation governance

## ■ September

- Follow up questions
- Create framework for consideration

# Timeline

- Today, September 21st
  - Examples of regional governance
  - Discuss framework
  - Panel: Transportation Stakeholders and Users
    - FutureWise
    - Transportation Choices Coalition
    - Sound Transit Citizen Oversight Panel
    - Discovery Institute
    - Washington State Transportation Commission
  - Senator Haugen

# Timeline

- October 5th Meeting
  - Inviting Senator Benson
  - Report from Hugh Spitzer
  - Report of the Subcommittee on Finance
  - Review and discussion of key issues
- October 12th
  - Working session to discuss key issues
- October 26th
  - Discuss key issues
  - Review portions of draft report

# Timeline

- November 15th
  - Draft completed, officially released
- Late November
  - Public Hearings on draft report
- December 7th
  - Summary of public response to draft report
  - Commissioner discussion of conclusions
- December 14th
  - Additional Commissioner discussion if needed
- Late December
  - Release of Final Report

# Resources

- Black Book with literature
- Analysis of comparable metropolitan areas
  - Presentations or Visits
- Subcommittee on Finance
- Focus groups and/or polling
- Website will have all meeting materials and Black Book literature